

**Council on Aging Board
Minutes of November 13, 2002 Meeting**

In Attendance: Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Al Crommett, Lillian Goodman, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager, CMAA representative Vicki Zwerdling, SCPC representative Dolores Lake and Phyllis Pearson, Friends of the SCC, Inc. representative were also present.

Board member Bettyann Chamberlin was excused.

Bob Ellia, the Town Assessor and Jim McCrohon (former board member) were special guest attendees.

Chairman's Comments:

After the previous meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted by the board, the chairman introduced Mr. Ellia. He presented a report on the planned modifications to the town's application of property tax exemptions for seniors. The modifications will be implemented in FY04 if approved by town meeting in May 2003. Important elements of the new 41C clause include revised asset level for qualification, age of qualification reduced to 65, and increase of the exemption to \$750. The board agreed that these proposed changes were all positive steps for our seniors who need some tax relief.

Jim next presented some of his thoughts on tax relief: one is to consider a "freeze" property tax rates of seniors who have lived here for 10 years. Some lively discussion ensued and the board expressed its appreciation to Jim for his thoughts.

The chairman then reported on his meeting with Rep. Jim McGovern concerning the food situation with the Age Center of Worcester and our continuing difficulties with operating the nutrition program at the Center. Solutions elude us yet.

Tim Swiss indicated that Trinity Church has expressed interest in donating up to \$1000 to the Center if we can identify a specific gift idea. None were immediately forthcoming.

Director's Comments:

Sharon reported that we have been officially informed that we would receive a 3rd van from the Transportation Department with delivery anticipated in 16-18 months. The lead-time will allow us to plan integrating this into our regular operation.

Sharon indicated that the MCOA conference attendees would provide comments to the board.

Liaison Reports:

CMAA—Vicki had nothing to report.

Friends of the SCC, Inc.—Phyllis indicated that their Board was interested in a joint meeting with the COA—December 4th was selected as an appropriate date.

SCP/Children—Dolores reported that the program was running along ok.

Elder Home Care Services—Betty reported that a meeting was held on Nov. 12th—the agency handled 116 referrals last month.

Furnishing & Decorating Committee—Helene reported that the committee is holding about \$2600 from prior fund raising efforts—no immediate new purchases are planned. She also reported that 2 "rollers" have been offered to us for use with the new Bocce courts.

Old Business:

Sharon reported on a meeting with Andre on the continuing saga of data bases and their use within the town. As a result of questions regarding "Access", Sharon and Vicki will attend a training session in Worcester.

New Business:

Sharon presented a draft of her proposed FY04 budget request. The board made a few minor adjustments considering the current financial demands on the town treasury, but we felt that no significant changes are likely.

Respectfully submitted,

John Concordia, Secretary